Genetically modified food

1746. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are genetically modified (GM) food and what are the negative effects of such food on human beings;

(b) whether it is a fact that food imported from USA containing GM star Link corn was distributed among the school children in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, the number of such incidences in the country during the last four years and the action taken against the organizations/individuals responsible for such imports; and

(d) in what way Government propose to prevent import of such food items into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Food derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is termed as GM food. The GM foods are tested for toxicity and allergencity for evaluating the human health safety.

(b) and (c) the Ministry has received no such reports. However, in the absence of any certification from the US regulatory agency to the effect that the Corn Soya Blend (CSB) imported by CARE & CRS through USAID, does not contain GM starlink corn, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) recently refused the proposal for import of CSB into the country.

(d) Prior approval of the GEAC is mandatory under the provisions of the Rules "Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989" for import of GM foods into the country. Violation of the above Rules is punishable under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

Revision of coastal regulation zone notification

1747. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to revise the Coastal

Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification relating to No Development Zone from 200 meters to 100 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL); and

(b) if so, what restrictions will be imposed for the treatment and disposal of effluents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pollution under control certificates

1748. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forged polluation under control certificates are issued in Delhi, Mumbai, Bagalore and Pune, as per recent report of the World Bank;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) What is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The World Bank had engaged an expert from the Trafalgar Group, Mexico city to assess the Pollution Under Control (PUC) programme in metro cities. The study has pointed out areas identified as requiring modification to increase effectiveness of vehicles emission inspection system both within context of the mandatory annual inspection for commercial vehicles and PUC programme for personal, vehicles. Under Rule 115 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the enforcement of PUC norms is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The State Governments have been advised to ensure proper verification and certification of on road vehicles.

Conservation of Wullar Lake

1749. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wullar Lake (in Kashmir) had been included in Ramsar Convention for conservation;